



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **ICE, LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT JOIN FORCES TO BREAK UP DRUG TRAFFICKING RING**

OREM, Utah – U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and officers with the Utah County Major Crimes Task Force have broken up a significant cocaine and methamphetamine distribution ring operating in Utah County.

Federal and local officers arrested two Payson men Wednesday and seized cocaine and methamphetamine with an estimated street value of \$170,000. The arrests capped an investigation that began two months ago when an undercover officer made a methamphetamine buy in the Provo area.

Yesterday, officers pulled over the suspected supplier's vehicle in Provo and found more than four ounces of methamphetamine hidden under a car seat occupied by the driver's two-year-old son. Subsequently, ICE agents and local officers executed a search warrant at a residence in Payson where they recovered additional methamphetamine, along with a cache of cocaine, and firearms. In all, authorities seized 3.5 pounds of methamphetamine, 10 ounces of cocaine, and three guns.

"Methamphetamine is a horrible drug that destroys lives and ruins communities," said David P. Ward, resident agent-in-charge of ICE investigations in Provo. "From an enforcement standpoint, this case is a prime example of teamwork. By pooling our resources, ICE and the Utah County Task Force succeeded in dismantling a criminal organization that posed a serious threat to our community."

ICE agents say both men arrested yesterday are undocumented aliens from Mexico. Cesar Contreras, 27, faces two counts of distribution of methamphetamine. Miguel Trujillo, 22, is charged with possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute, possession of cocaine with intent to distribute, and illegal possession of a weapon. Both men are being held at the Utah County jail.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.*